

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This amendment amends the specification to correct a reference number. This amendment also cancels claims 11, 12, and 15, amends claim 10, and adds new claims 16-18. New claim 16 is claim 11, which was indicated as allowable, rewritten in independent form. New claim 17 is claim 12, which was indicated as allowable, rewritten in independent form. New claim 18 is claim 15, which was indicated as allowable, rewritten in independent form.

Claim 10 has been amended to patentably define over Fink, U.S. Patent No. 6,029,995. Amended claim 10 recites an inflator having a container in which inflation fluid is stored. The container has an opening through which inflation fluid flows in a given direction from the container. The inflator also comprises a retainer for retaining an initiator on the container of the inflator. The retainer comprises at least one part having a passage for directing gas flowing from the container toward an outlet of the inflator. Gas flowing from the container passes through the passage of the retainer and passes through the outlet of the inflator in the given direction.

Fink fails to disclose or suggest a retainer having a passage for directing gas flowing in a given direction from a container toward an outlet of the inflator in which the gas flowing from the container passes through the passage of the

retainer and passes through the outlet of the inflator in the given direction. In Fink, the passage 70 of end wall 24 directs gas flowing in a direction parallel to axis 47 toward an outlet through which the gas flows in a direction along axis 75, which is perpendicular to axis 47. Thus, gas flowing from the container in Fink does not pass through the passage 70 in end wall 24 and pass through an outlet of the inflator in same direction that the gas flows from the container. Since Fink fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 10, allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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